

It's time to let go of the fantasy that the U.S. government can make money off of its obsolete ships. We should allow MARAD to pay shipyards to do the scrapping in a responsible and safe manner here in the U.S. By allowing MARAD to pay for ship scrapping, MARAD can reduce its inventory of obsolete ships and remove the threat these vessels pose to our waterways. In addition, paying shipyards to do the scrapping work will create secure well paid jobs in a domestic industry in need of new business.

And finally, allowing MARAD to pay for ship scrapping, may save money for the U.S. in the long run. In fiscal year 1999, it cost MARAD \$5.2 million to maintain its fleet of obsolete vessels. This is only the tip of the iceberg. With no solution for disposing of its ships in sight, MARAD's inventory will continue to grow. The inventory of obsolete vessels has almost doubled over the last two years. It now totals 110 vessels, with 88 designated for scrapping. The U.S. Navy expects to transfer 18 additional vessels to MARAD by the end of fiscal year 2001 alone. As these vessels continue to deteriorate the cost to keep them afloat rises. For example, in 1999, MARAD spent \$1 million for an emergency hull repair for one vessel alone.

My bill would establish a pilot program, similar to the one launched by the U.S. Navy, to pay qualified U.S. shipyards to scrap its vessels. The bill authorizes \$40 million over three years for the program.

The government's current options are to send its vessels to overseas shipyards where third world workers toil in unspeakable conditions, or leave them in U.S. harbors where they risk polluting our waters. Unfortunately, without financial incentives like those in my legislation, these ships are not going anywhere.

The federal government needs to take responsibility for the environmental hazards and safety risks posed by these vessels. My legislation is a step towards solving this problem.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT: PROTECTING THE DOT-COM AMERICAN DREAM

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 2000*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to introduce the Worker Economic Opportunity Act, the House companion identical to S. 2323 introduced in the other body by Senators MITCH MCCONNELL and CHRISTOPHER DODD.

This legislation, supported in the House and Senate, by Republicans and Democrats, with the involvement of the private sector and the Labor Department is being introduced for one reason: to protect the dot-com American Dream.

It will secure the opportunity for 65 million Americans, union and non-union, who are hourly and non-exempt employees to be awarded stock options and other equity arrangements, without fear that a "piece of the

rock" will hurt their overtime pay or expose employers to bizarre and unintentional liability.

Recently, the Labor Department ruled that one part of one old, very important law—the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938—effectively and quite unintentionally endangered the New Economy practice of awarding stock options to line employees.

The writers of that law never imagined that anyone but the most senior executives could be awarded stock options. Under the FLSA, profits from stock options would have to be taken into account when computing overtime, an impossible task that endangered both stock options and overtime pay for hourly workers.

But today, workers demand them. And employers are offering them.

The Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune, the Washington Times and Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and most every major metropolitan daily newspaper employment section is packed with job after job that offers stock options, stock options, stock options. That's good for workers, and good for America, and part of the dot-com American Dream.

This bill is straightforward. It exempts these stock options and equity-sharing benefits of the New Economy from affecting people's rightful overtime pay yesterday, today and tomorrow.

It's supported by Republicans and Democrats, the House and Senate, and the Administration, and the private-sector Coalition to Promote Employee Stock Ownership representing over 100 associations and employers.

#### PUBLIC RECOGNITION

I want to recognize and thank several Members and other individuals whose work on this has been so important.

On the Republican side, these members include Representatives STEVE KUYKENDALL, TOM DAVIS and DOUG OSE, and Workforce Protections Subcommittee Chairman CASS BALLENGER, the gentleman from North Carolina, whose panel has jurisdiction over this issue.

On the Democratic side, these members include Representatives JIM MORAN, CAL DOOLEY, ANNA ESHOO, TIM ROEMER, and many others.

The Senate has been a strong partner, side by side working together with us in the interests of American workers. I want to commend the Labor Department, including Secretary Alexis Herman, and Mr. Earl Gohl in the office of the Secretary, for their conscientious hard work. Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to the over 100 trade associations and employers who participated in the private-sector Coalition to Promote Employee Stock Ownership, led by the able personnel of the American Electronics Association.

I look forward to my friend Chairman BALLENGER taking up this important legislation in committee. Given that it has strong bipartisan, bicameral, Administration and private sector support, that it will be moved promptly, sent to the President, and signed into law. Together, we will score a win for employees and employers, for high-tech and low-tech, and for the American Dream.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of information about this issue is available on the Internet.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I wish to include in the RECORD several web links that provide helpful background information. These include:

The LPA (formerly Labor Policy Association) has several backgrounder papers, congressional testimony, and news releases available at <http://www.lpa.org>.

The Employment Policy Foundation likewise has a background paper on this issue at <http://www.epf.org>.

The Association of Private Pension and Welfare Plans (APPWP) has background information on stock options at <http://www.appwp.org/stockoptions.html>, and on stock ownership by nonexempt employees at [http://www.appwp.org/stock\\_ownership\\_non-exempt.html](http://www.appwp.org/stock_ownership_non-exempt.html).

The House Education and Workforce Committee, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections has posted the prepared testimony from its public hearing on this issue at [http://www.house.gov/ed\\_workforce/hearings/106th/wp/flsastockop3200/wl322000.htm](http://www.house.gov/ed_workforce/hearings/106th/wp/flsastockop3200/wl322000.htm).

I encourage Members who wish to cosponsor this bill to contact me as soon as possible.

#### "THE KEEP THE COLORADO RIVER CLEAN ACT"

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 2000*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, ten and a half million tons of toxic mine wastes generated by the now-defunct Atlas Mine are stored in a tailings pond located immediately adjacent to the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. The tailings pond, built in the 1950's is not lined, and as a result, these radioactive and toxic wastes are seeping down through the aquifer into the Colorado River.

Water from the Colorado River makes up a significant part of the drinking water supply for Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, and is used additionally to irrigate hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural lands. Moreover, the tailings pond, which has been designated as critical habitat for four endangered species, is situated between Canyonlands and Arches National Parks.

Leaving a huge, leaking tailings pile right next to the Colorado River does not make sense. In the event of flood, the river could easily be contaminated. Yet, until recently, the federal government was willing to allow the Atlas Corporation to reclaim the site by simply placing a dirt cap over the top of the pile. This plan will not stop contamination of the Colorado River, which is expected to continue for hundreds of years. To address this problem, on January 19, 1999, Representatives PELOSI, GUTIERREZ, FILNER and I introduced H.R. 393, a bill to require the Department of Energy to move the tailings to a safe location and then direct the Attorney General to ascertain the liability of the Atlas Corporation, and its parent companies, to secure reimbursement as appropriate. This bill was referred to the Commerce Committee where it has languished.

I introduced this bill after years of advocating removal of these toxic wastes from the

banks of the Colorado River. But, until now the Executive Branch has refused to take responsibility for cleaning up this site. Thankfully, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has recognized the foolishness of this approach and, earlier this year, proposed an "agreement-in-principle" that will enable the abandoned Atlas uranium mill tailings site to be moved away from the Colorado River to a safer location. The Administration has also requested \$10 million for fiscal year 2001 to undertake the studies and data collection necessary to reclaim the Atlas site.

In addition to moving the toxic tailings away from the Colorado River, Secretary Richardson's proposal also includes solutions to several other public lands issues in Utah: the return of certain federal lands to the Northern Ute Indian Tribe; reservation of a production royalty on future oil and gas development of those lands; and protection of a quarter-mile corridor along 75-miles of the Green River adjacent to Ute tribal lands.

This week, I joined Representatives CANNON, FILNER, NAPOLITANO, and 47 other House colleagues in sponsoring H.R. 4165—a revised bi-partisan bill that will accomplish the full range of goals outlined by the Department of Energy and Interior—and most importantly, will assure that the toxic mill tailings are moved away from the Colorado River to a safe location.

#### DENMARK'S CROWN PRINCE MAKES DARING TREK ACROSS GREENLAND

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Danish Caucus, I would like to take a moment to recognize and commend the actions of the young heir to the Danish throne, Crown Prince Frederik. It is quite encouraging to see a young man who serves as a model of behavior for the youth of Denmark and who uses his time and influence to educate others and serve his country. Presently—instead of lounging about Frederiksborg, the Danish Royal Palace—Prince Frederik is serving as the medic for a four month, 2,200 mile dog sled expedition across Greenland with five other members of the Greenland patrol.

The Los Angeles Times (March 3, 2000) described the Prince's adventure: "The 31-year-old heir to the Danish throne has . . . served in the army, navy, and Danish version of the Seabees. The Harvard graduate will get his pilot's license and will train with the air force after the Greenland expedition, [called] Sirius 2000."

Every step of Sirius 2000 is broadcast on the expedition's website (<http://www.expedition.tv2.dk>), which has drawn "enormous interest, especially among school children who are following the expedition as part of their studies," according to Freddy Neuman, whose public relations agency is handling media inquiries about the trip. The effort unites TV2 with the Ministry of Education in a project to teach young Danes about Greenland.

Crown Prince Frederik's daring outdoor adventure teaches schoolchildren and the general public alike about Greenland, the frigid and thinly populated land that has been under Danish rule for most of the last two centuries. According to the Los Angeles Times, "Scholars and scientists at the Arctic Institute and the Danish Polar Council here say they are thrilled that Frederik's participation is putting the territory, its indigenous people, and the Greenland Patrol—which is marking its 50th anniversary with the event—on the global map." Leif Vanggaard, a retired navy captain and surgeon with 30 years experience treating Arctic injuries, said of the expedition: "The TV programs and web site and all these connections to schools make it educational as well as functional."

Mr. Speaker, Crown Prince Frederik's trek across frigid Greenland is helping to remind mainland Denmark of its other thinly populated, yet environmentally rich territory. The Prince's daily courage and dedication to his mission and the nation are notable accomplishments, and an inspirational demonstration of how a privileged young man can wisely use his public visibility to benefit others.

#### ALPHONSE STROOBANTS

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 2000, Mr. Alphonse Stroobants received the Charles Sackett Heart Award from the American Heart Association, Centra Health and the Cardiology Associates of Central Virginia.

The Coveted Charles Sackett award was named for Dr. Charles Sackett, whose drive and vision for cardiac services has made a long lasting impact on the Central Virginia Community.

In his acceptance remarks Mr. Stroobants spoke of his former co-workers at the medical community, and of his many friends through the years.

The son of a coal miner, Alphonse Stroobants was raised in war ravaged Belgium. He fled the Nazi occupation on bicycle into France when he was nine years old in the early 1940's with his parents.

He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and took his first job as an apprentice for a tool and die maker in New York state.

Responding to an ad in the newspaper, he moved to Lynchburg in 1959. He eventually purchased the company where he was working and grew Belgium Tool and Die into a successful business with annual sales in excess of twenty five-million dollars. He sold the company and retired in 1990.

Mr. Stroobants gift to Centra Health has further assisted the development of cardiac services for Central Virginians and the Heart Center is named in his honor.

Long known for his generosity and competitive spirit, he has remained a loyal friend to Virginia. His love for the community is genuine, and his service and philanthropy exemplary.

Mr. Speaker I am honored to know and have as a friend Alphonse Stroobants.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### APRIL 10

1 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine funerals and burials, focusing on protecting consumers from bad practices.

SD-106

##### APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the effects of permanent, normalized trade relations with China on the U.S. economy.

SR-253

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of Bernard Daniel Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Gregory Robert Dahlberg, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army; and Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SR-222

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings on the nomination of Christopher A. McLean, of Nebraska, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture; to be followed by hearings to examine the Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) crisis and the future of renewable fuels.

SR-328A

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine early childhood programs for low-income families.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or